



COLONEL FINLEY R. HAMILTON

BIOGRAPHY

Colonel Finley R. Hamilton was appointed Commander and Conductor of The U.S. Army Field Band of Washington, DC, in March 1999. A native of Richmond, Kentucky, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Eastern Kentucky University. He completed ROTC training and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1971. His first active duty assignment was as Director of Instruction at the Armed Forces School of Music, where he was responsible for training band members and bandmasters for the Army.

Colonel Hamilton's next position, as Staff Bands Officer for Forces Command in Atlanta, involved inspections and staff oversight of more than 100 Active, Reserve, and National Guard Army Bands. In 1982, he assumed command of the Army Ground Forces Band in Atlanta. Under his direction, the band conducted concert tours in North and Central America, and performed for President Reagan, President Mitterrand of France, and Prime Minister Peres of Israel.

In 1985, Colonel Hamilton was transferred to Heidelberg, Germany, where he served as Staff Bands Officer for U.S. Army, Europe. He became Commander of the U.S. Army, Europe Band and Chorus in 1987. In this position, he conducted concerts and ceremonies throughout the European continent and performed on two separate occasions for former President George Bush.

Colonel Hamilton was previously assigned to The U.S. Army Field Band in July 1990 as Director of the Soldiers' Chorus. He assumed the duties of Deputy Commander and Associate Conductor of The U.S. Army Field Band from 1991–1997. Conducting more than 700 concerts throughout the United States, Europe, and Hawaii, he was also responsible for initiating the Field Band's performance series at the Maryland Hall for the Performing Arts and conducting concerts with the Boston Pops Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, and the Detroit Symphony. In June 1997, he was assigned as the Department of the Army Staff Bands Officer, Washington, DC, overseeing the entire Army Bands program.

Colonel Hamilton is a graduate of the Adjutant General Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Command and General Staff College. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. Professional affiliations include the American Bandmasters Association, National Band Association, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and the Texas Bandmasters Association.